

PRESS RELEASE

SENT TO [NAMES OF NEWS/MEDIA OUTLETS AND MAJOR EMPLOYERS CONTEMPLATING LAYOFF]

AmeriSchools Academy will be participating in the National School Lunch Program. As part of this program AmeriSchools Academy will offer healthy meals every school day. Lunch will cost \$3.00. Your children may qualify for free or reduced-price meals. Reduced-price meals cost is \$.40 for lunch.

Qualifications for children to receive free or reduced price meals include: belonging to a household whose income is at or below the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines, belonging to a household that receives public assistance, or if the child is homeless, migrant, runaway, foster, or participates in a Head Start or Even Start pre-Kindergarten program.

Household size and income criteria are used to determine eligibility for free and reduced-price benefits if the household does not receive assistance or the children are not in the other categories mentioned above. Children can get free or reduced-price meals if the household's gross income falls at or below the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guideline chart

Federal Eligibility Income Chart for School Year 2018-2019						
Household Size	FREE			REDUCED-PRICE		
	Yearly Income	Monthly Income	Weekly Income	Yearly Income	Monthly Income	Weekly Income
1	\$15,782	\$1,316	\$304	\$22,459	\$1,872	\$432
2	\$21,398	\$1,784	\$411	\$30,451	\$2,538	\$586
3	\$27,014	\$2,252	\$520	\$38,443	\$3,204	\$740
4	\$32,630	\$2,720	\$627	\$46,435	\$3,870	\$893
5	\$38,246	\$3,188	\$736	\$54,427	\$4,536	\$1,047
6	\$43,862	\$3,656	\$844	\$62,419	\$5,202	\$1,201
7	\$49,478	\$4,124	\$952	\$70,411	\$5,868	\$1,355
8	\$55,094	\$4,592	\$1,148	\$78,403	\$6,534	\$1,508
Each additional person:	+\$5,616	+\$468	+\$108	+\$7,992	+\$666	+\$154

To apply for free or reduced-price meals, households can fill out the application and return it to the school unless the household has already received notification that their children are approved for free meals this year. Application forms are being distributed to all households with a letter informing households of the availability of free and reduced-price meals for their children and what is required to complete on the application. Applications also are available at AmeriSchools Academy school office.

Only one application is required for all children in the household and the information provided on the application will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility and verification of data. Applications may be verified at any time during the school year by the school or other program officials. An application for free or reduced-price benefits cannot be approved unless it contains complete eligibility information as indicated on the application and instructions. In the operation of child feeding programs, no child will be discriminated against because of race, sex, color, national origin, age, or disability.

Families can apply for benefits at any time. If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size increases, the household should contact the school. Such changes may make the children of the household eligible for benefits if the household's income falls at or below the Federal Guidelines. Contact AmeriSchools Academy at any time to request an application.

Under the provisions of the free and reduced-price policy, School lunch coordinator will review applications and determine eligibility. Parents or guardians dissatisfied with the ruling of the official may wish to discuss the decision with the determining official on an informal basis. Parents wishing to make a formal appeal for a hearing on the decision may make a request either orally or in writing to AmeriSchools Academy 1333 West Camelback Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85013.

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To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992 Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: Call: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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